

## **EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES**

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region  
February 23, 2001

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### **BALD EAGLES SOARING TOWARD RECOVERY**

Bald eagle nests rose by about 50 and fledgling eagles by 100 from 1999 to 2000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. In 2000 there were 532 active nests and 812 young eagles. These represent increases from 486 and 706, respectively. Additionally, there were 559 nesting pairs in 2000. Significant increases in VA account for a large portion of this year's gains -- 37 new active nests and 82 more fledglings -- one of the largest jumps in recent years. This recovery has been attributed to the ban on DDT in 1972 and subsequent habitat improvements. The threshold for delisting the Chesapeake basin populations to a non-threatened status has been partially met: 1.1 eaglets per active nest sustained over five years and 300-400 nesting pairs. However, another criteria for delisting, requiring permanent protection of habitat for 300-400 nesting pairs, has not been met.

### **MARYLAND STEEL PROCESSOR CUTS LEAD WASTE**

At the urging of state and federal environmental officials, a Maryland manufacturer of carbon steel straps reduced its lead waste by 27,000 pounds per year. The company stopped using molten lead to prepare the straps for painting and starting using iron phosphate instead. The company also removed 100,000 pounds of molten lead from its site and is saving \$100,000 in annual energy costs. Federal and state environmental officials do waste minimization site visits to industrial facilities to recommend less-polluting, cost-saving technologies.

#### **JOINT EFFORT TO ID SOURCE OF PCBs IN DELAWARE ESTUARY**

Cooperative efforts are underway to work with Philadelphia, Camden and Wilmington to track down and reduce/eliminate PCB sources to their sewer systems. It is suspected that municipal sewer systems are one of the sources of PCBs. Fish consumption advisories are now in effect in the Delaware Estuary due to the concentration of PCBs. EPA Regions II and III, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the states, and other key stakeholders are working together to implement the PCB tracking strategy. Monitoring of municipal sewer systems could begin by summer.

#### **CHESAPEAKE REGION LAND PRESERVATION**

An estimated 6.7 million acres have been permanently preserved in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. An estimated 1.1 million more acres need to be preserved by 2010 in order to reach the Bay program's preservation goal. A report released this week by the Trust for Public Lands and the Bay Commission highlights the efforts and funds spent to date to preserve land in each jurisdiction and projects future investments needed to meet the goal by 2010.

#### **INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL SAMPLING AT SPRING VALLEY**

On February 14, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator, Thomas C. Voltaggio provided testimony at a District of Columbia public oversight roundtable meeting on Spring Valley chaired by D.C. council members. The Corps of Engineers and the D.C. Health Department also provided testimony. Both EPA and the Army committed to a joint effort to expand the residential sampling program in the area and to improve communication with local residents. The D.C. Health Department will appoint a science advisory panel on Spring Valley to review data and assess residential exposure to contaminants. The next public meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 6. Spring Valley

encompasses a large area on and around American University where the Army once buried unexploded ordnance. The soil has elevated arsenic levels. A day care center on university property had to be relocated on January 17. There are about 1,200 private homes located in the area, as well.

#### **FIRST ROUND SAMPLING DONE AT GAS SPILL IN HAZLETON, PA**

EPA has completed all first-round sampling of the homes in the affected area of the Tranguch Gasoline Spill site in Hazleton, Pa. Due to an historic gasoline spill that entered the groundwater at the site, several homes in the area have benzene vapors coming through their sewer lines. Of the homes sampled, 50 had detectable levels of benzene. Vent traps to prevent the benzene from entering the homes have been installed on nearly 200 homes so far. In a few cases, benzene vapors are entering homes through foundation cracks or dry sumps. For these cases, EPA is installing in-home air purifying systems and active ventilation systems. The first active ventilation system was installed this week.

#### **EPA HOSTS SMALL BIZ WORKSHOP ON TECH GRANTS**

The EPA's Business Assistance Center will host a free workshop on March 27 on the Small Business Innovation Research Program. Through the program, EPA makes monetary awards to small, high-tech firms to develop and commercialize cutting-edge environmental technologies. The program spawns commercial ventures that improve our environment and quality of life, create jobs, increase productivity and economic growth, and improve the international competitiveness of the United States technology industry. The workshop will emphasize practical, useful information on critical elements of the program including writing winning proposals, commercialization and sources of assistance.

## **EPA UNVEILS NEW LIVESTOCK REGS IN DELAWARE**

EPA presented to Delaware's Nutrient Management Commission proposed regulations that address the impacts of manure, wastewater, and land application generated by concentrated animal feeding operations on water quality. These new regulations released in the federal register on January 12 (available for public comment until May 14) will result in new water discharge permits for dairy, poultry, beef, and swine feeding operations based upon new technologies. Many changes have occurred in the livestock industry over the past 25 years, the last time the regulations were promulgated. Environmental concerns addressed by the regulations include both ecological and human health effects. The Delaware Commission appointed by the Governor has the responsibility to implement the Delaware Nutrient Management Act which will require most poultry and other animal operations to have a nutrient management plan that will be an integral part of the permit, addressing pollution control practices both at the feeding areas and the parcels of land that receive waste for agricultural needs. Delaware's law requires that by July 1, 2003 the commission will start reviewing nutrient management plans.

## **PHILADELPHIA ASTHMA COALITION GETS GRANT**

To help combat the rising tide of asthma among children, the Princeton, New Jersey-based Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded grants to eight communities to develop models that improve access to and the quality of clinical care, reduce asthma symptoms and foster patient and community education. One of the recipients of a grant was Philadelphia Allies Against Asthma, which is administered by the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. Each community was awarded one-year planning grants of approximately \$150,000 and will be eligible for three-year implementation grants of up to \$1.35 million.

## **SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ISSUED**

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation last week issued a Request for Proposals for the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program. This grant program, administered by NFWF through a cooperative agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, provides grants of up to \$50,000 to organizations working on a local level to protect and improve

watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. The purpose of the grants program is to address the water quality and living resource needs of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The program has been designed to encourage the development and sharing of innovative ideas among the many organizations wishing to be involved in watershed protection activities. Proposals are due April 6, 2001. Prospective applicants should contact the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation at (202)857-0166.

#### **PESTICIDE GRANTS GO TO DELAWARE AND PA AG DEPT**

The EPA awarded two Pesticide Performance Partnership Grants on January 26, one to the state of Delaware for \$155,684 and another to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for \$545,483. These grants will fund continued critical pesticide work in the areas of enforcement, groundwater, inspections, endangered species, and certification and training, and agromedicine.

#### **SESSIONS ON PCBs IN DELAWARE ESTUARY**

On February 21, the first of three public information sessions on "PCBs in the Delaware Estuary" was held in Wilmington, De. The information sessions provide the stakeholders in the watershed an understanding of the PCB problems of the estuary. The human health risks and impacts on fish and wildlife caused by PCBs were presented along with the actions being taken to address the problem as part of the Delaware Estuary PCB Strategy. The session was sponsored by the Delaware River Basin Commission, The Delaware Estuary Program, EPA Region 3, the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and the numerous other partners. The upcoming public information sessions will be held March 14, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and March 26 at the Burlington County Human Services Building in Mount Holly, N.J.

#### **LEGISLATORS CALL FOR WATER AND SEWER FUNDING**

On February 13, a bipartisan coalition of more than 80 legislators called for comprehensive legislation that would pump \$57 billion in federal funding into the nation's aging drinking water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The legislators were joined by drinking water and wastewater service providers, state environment and health administrators, engineers and environmentalists to release a Water Infrastructure Network report.

## **PA SENATE VOTES TO REVIEW HALT OF TAILPIPE TESTS**

On February 13, the Pennsylvania Senate voted unanimously to review whether enhanced inspection and maintenance (I&M) of automobiles should be discontinued as a means of reducing ozone smog-forming emissions in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas. The vote comes on the heels of a decision by PADEP and PennDOT to explore on-board diagnostics as an alternative to enhanced I&M in eight counties in central Pennsylvania.

## **SEMINAR ON GREEN HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS**

"Learn How to Benefit from Recycling and Other Environmental Initiatives" was the topic February 8, in Washington, D.C. at a seminar sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. with a Mid-Atlantic Solid Waste Management Assistance Grant from EPA Region III. Six speakers presented views from all aspects of the hotel and restaurant business, including building and certifying green hotels, reducing wastes from hotels and restaurants, and locating green products. All participants also received a recycling guide book filled with information on how to develop an environmental policy and numerous case studies.

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